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THE JERUSALEM  
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## U.S. companies rap free trade proposal

By WOLF BLITZER  
Jerusalem Post Correspondent  
WASHINGTON: — Nearly a dozen powerful U.S. manufacturing and agricultural groups yesterday testified against the creation of a U.S.-Israeli free trade area.

They expressed fear their domestic sales would suffer in the face of a stiffer import challenge from Israel. They were also worried about the precedent which a U.S.-Israeli agreement would set for other countries. They raised the spectre of further U.S. unemployment.

These groups were responding to President Reagan's announcement at the end of his summit with Prime Minister Shamir late last year to move towards an agreement removing all trade barriers between the two countries.

If the talks succeed, it would mark the first time the U.S. has entered into a totally free trade arrangement with any country.

Israel, wishing to increase its exports, had been pressing the administration for over two years to enter into such negotiations.

The talks, which formally convened in January, are likely to continue for several months. U.S. and Israeli officials believe an agreement could be achieved by the end of the year. Congress will have to approve it.

The administration's special trade representative, William Brock, yesterday defended the proposal during a hearing of the Senate Finance Committee.

Three Jewish groups — the Zionist Organization of America, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), and the Committee for Economic Growth of Israel — also testified in favour.

But opposing them were the American Farm Bureau, the California Olive Growers, the

American Onion and Garlic Association, the Jewellers Manufacturers Association, the Textile and Fibre Coalition, the Bromine Coalition and the Florida Citrus Growers.

Last year, Israel imported \$1.7 billion in non-military goods from the U.S. Its exports totalled \$1.2 billion.

In addition, Israel has been importing between \$1 billion and \$2b. a year in recent years in military equipment from the U.S. Israeli military exports to the U.S. are tiny, although Israeli arms manufacturers would like to increase such sales.

Speaking on behalf of the Committee for Economic Growth of Israel, Elmer Winter told the senators that the proposed free trade area would open new export opportunities for U.S. manufacturers.

"The proposed FTA (Free Trade Area) will help move Israel towards economic independence," he continued. "This will gradually reduce the funds that the U.S. government commits annually to assist Israel to meet her economic needs."

Also appearing before the committee was Republican Senator Pete Wilson of California — a supporter of the free trade concept. But he had one caveat. He warned that if the Israeli government were to heavily subsidize those exports destined for the U.S., this would represent unfair competition since there would be no similar U.S. subsidies for American goods. If that were the case, he said he would oppose the free trade area.

Wilson is very much aware of the damage being done to the California wine industry because of the removal of certain trade barriers involving imported French and Italian wines. Wilson has charged "no fair," citing government subsidies provided to Italian and French farmers and bottlers.

## Treasury delighted by rising exports

By AVI TEMKIN  
Post-Economic Reporter

Treasury officials reacted with unbridled delight yesterday to the news that Israel's exports are clearly on the rise. During January, sales of goods overseas totalled \$450 million, as compared to \$372m. in January 1983 — a 21 per cent rise.

Industrial exports rose by some 24 per cent totalling some \$270m. last month, as compared with \$218m. during the same month in 1983. Discounting seasonal factors, industrial exports were 34 per cent up in January over their monthly average for the last quarter of 1983.

Exports of agricultural products also showed a marked rise last month. They amounted to some \$74m, 30 per cent up on January 1983. Exports of polished diamonds totalled some \$106m. last month, as compared to \$95m. during the same month last year.

Senior Treasury sources said yesterday: "Our policies are clearly proving effective. We also expect the figures for the trade deficit, due to be published shortly, to show an improvement."

## Share prices skyrocket

By JOSEPH MORGENSTERN  
Post Finance Reporter

TEL AVIV: — Share prices soared yesterday as 342 securities surged ahead by margins of 5 per cent or better.

And for the first time in the recent past the public appeared to be re-entering the market place.

While most analysts agree that the share market has been vastly oversold it nevertheless took Sunday's Treasury announcement of various forms of assistance to savers and investors to spark the single largest gain since before the crash of bank shares last October.

## Orgad will cut benefits to the rich

Post Economic Reporter

The richer half of the population receives some 35 per cent of all government-sponsored social benefits, a situation which must be changed, Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad said yesterday.

He was speaking at the Knesset Labour and Social Affairs Committee debate on the poverty figures disclosed last month by the National Insurance Institute.

Cohen-Orgad stressed that the Treasury's policies will be designed to ensure a minimum income for poor families, and that this will be done without aiding rich families in any way.

Earlier Cohen-Orgad appeared at the Knesset Finance Committee to discuss his policy regarding funding for hospitals. The minister said that hospitals will get all the funding they need.

But Dan Tichon (Liberals) argued that economists at the Treasury's budget division had promised him that IS30 million needed by Rambam Hospital to cover the costs of treating Lebanon War casualties had been allocated, whereas no such payment had been made.

## Chief rabbis: Mifal Hapayis 'kosher'

Jerusalem Post Staff

The chief rabbis have ruled that it is permissible to buy Mifal Hapayis lottery tickets, and that such buyers are not to be regarded as gamblers. The chief rabbis, Avraham Shapira and Mordechai Eliyahu, said this yesterday at their meeting with Mifal Hapayis chairman Gideon Gadot.

Their ruling contradicts the halachic ruling by former Sephardi chief rabbi Ovadia Yosef that the purchase of such tickets was forbidden, at least for Sephardic Jews. Yosef's ruling appeared on Friday in a regular column in the religious weekly Erev Shabbat and in The Jerusalem Post.

The chief rabbis, however, protested Gadot's criticism of the former Sephardi chief rabbi. The Mifal Hapayis chairman promised that he would apologize to Rabbi Yosef.

## Jemayel faced with collapse —or giving in to the Syrians

By DAVID BERNSTEIN  
Post Mideast Affairs Reporter and agencies

Lebanese President Amin Jemayel's regime appeared on the verge of collapse last night as pro-Syrian opposition forces consolidated their hold on most of West Beirut. Shi'ite leader Nabih Berri meanwhile joined Druse leader Walid Jumblatt in calling for Jemayel's resignation.

"The only way now is to find a new president," Berri told reporters in Beirut yesterday after he and his fellow opposition leaders spurned Jemayel's latest peace proposals,

which were announced on Sunday. This was the first time Berri has said Jemayel must go, echoing a demand made several times over the past few days by Jumblatt and repeated once again yesterday in Damascus.

Significantly, Syria has yet to openly endorse the opposition call for Jemayel's resignation — and this could provide the embattled president with his last hope for political survival.

A high-level delegation of conservative Lebanese Moslem politicians — including former prime ministers Takiyeddin al-Solh, Salim al-Hoss and Rashid al-Solh — was in Damascus last night in a last-ditch effort to hammer out an accommodation between Jemayel and the Syrians.

The Syrians were plainly ready to talk to the delegation, which has already met with Foreign Minister Abdul-Halim Khaddam. The Lebanese are expected to meet with President Hafez Assad today.

But there was no indication that Assad is about to soften the demands he has been making on Jemayel — including the scrapping of last May's agreement with Israel.

Jemayel has so far refused to meet this demand, with the Lebanese pact taking on deep symbolic significance for both sides as acknowledgment of Lebanon's independent pro-Western stance, rather than a subservient pro-Syrian

and pro-Arab orientation. But with the latest reverses suffered by the Lebanese Army in yesterday's fighting, Jemayel may find it difficult to maintain this position much longer.

His resistance to the Syrian demand has been very largely based on Washington's support both for the continued independence of his regime and for the pact it was instrumental in achieving. With the U.S. Marines at Beirut's international airport now completely cut off by the opposition militias, this support is likely to be much less effective than in the past, unless the Americans are prepared to significantly step up their involvement in the fighting.

## Washington gloomy over Lebanon prospects

By WOLF BLITZER  
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON: — U.S. officials yesterday privately expressed fear that the situation in Lebanon was on the verge of total collapse.

Publicly, the Reagan administration sought to project an upbeat profile, insisting that President Amin Jemayel was still in charge and represented the legitimate government of Lebanon.

The White House issued a statement saying that the resignation of Prime Minister Shafik Wazzan offered a new "opportunity" to move towards a more broadly based Lebanese government of genuine national reconciliation.

But these statements could not mask the gloom among U.S. specialists receiving first-hand reports from Beirut, where the latest fighting has been very intense.

Amid this latest violence, a clear split has also surfaced within the administration over the appropriate U.S. response.

Some U.S. officials are proposing a resumption of long-range U.S. naval fire — and perhaps even aerial bombardment — to underscore U.S. resolve in the face of what is widely seen here as Syrian-inspired provocations. In addition, they want to physically back up the Lebanese Army positions.

Others, however, are more cautious, fearful of further upsetting the Democrats in Congress.

Secretary of State George Shultz.

## Two soldiers hurt in ambush

Jerusalem Post Reporter

METULIA: — Two IDF soldiers were wounded yesterday when fire was directed at a convoy south of the Zaharani River, near the Shi'ite village of Sarafand. The area has been the scene of numerous attacks recently.

The convoy was attacked with automatic fire and hand grenades from behind a stone wall. The two IDF soldiers were hit in the legs. They were taken by helicopter to Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

Other soldiers returned fire and searched the area. A grenade-launcher, grenades and ammunition were found.

In two other attacks yesterday in South Lebanon, there were no injuries. A rocket-propelled grenade was thrown at an IDF vehicle in the Nabatiya marketplace.



Pieter Dankert, president of the European Parliament, addresses the Knesset yesterday. Speaker Menahem Savidor is seated at the right. (Zoom 77)

## Euro-parliament head: Areas policy harmful

By ARYEH RUBINSTEIN  
Post-Knesset Reporter

Addressing the Knesset at the opening of yesterday's session, Pieter Dankert, president of the European Parliament, called Israel's settlement policy in the West Bank "counter-productive to a peaceful solution of the overall problem."

He said this policy was instrumental in "almost destroying the very commendable initiative" of King Hussein who he said was still in the process of negotiations with Palestinian spokesmen.

Dankert, a leader of the Socialist movement in Holland, said that as seen from Europe the fundamental problem of the Middle East — next to the Iran-Iraq war and its underlying problems — is the question of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

He realized, he said, that the terrorism that has plagued Israel since its founding has so emotionally shaken Israeli society as to make it almost impossible to discuss the problems of the Palestinians, and the PLO in particular. Still, the

problem could not be avoided. Dankert saw in the Reagan Plan and the Fez summit "a slow, but sometimes imperceptible, movement forward." And in the recent improvement in Egypt's position in the moderate Arab world, and in "Arafat's changed positions," he saw confirmations of that trend.

The visitor said that the options open to the West Bank Palestinians were a very crucial factor in Hussein's negotiations with the PLO. In that context, he said, the reconvening of the Jordanian Parliament seemed to be "a significant and constructive move."

Earlier in his speech, he said that if another prolonged and serious escalation took place in Lebanon, the whole future of the peace-keeping force would be open to question, "with the most serious consequences for the region."

Speaker Menahem Savidor, who welcomed Dankert to the Knesset, urged the European Parliament to safeguard Israel's vital interests prior to the entry of Spain and Portugal into the European Community.

## IAF jet crashes in Sinai, pilot killed

Post Defence Reporter

An Israeli Air Force jet fell in Sinai on Sunday night and the pilot's body was returned to Israel yesterday, the army spokesman reported.

It was the first time since the peace treaty with Egypt that an Israeli plane had fallen on the Egyptian side. The type of aircraft cannot be revealed.

The plane's pilot, Segen Danny Insler, 21, from Givat Shmuel near Tel Aviv, was buried with full military honours yesterday.

His father is Professor Vadislav Insler, a world authority on fertility who practises at Beersheba's

Soroka medical centre.

The IDF announcement said the plane had been "on a routine training mission." The plane crashed at 8 p.m., some eight kilometres west of Nitzana, near old Egyptian and Israeli midfields.

According to one military source, the plane exploded when it hit the ground. A short while after the accident, Tat-Ahuf Dov Sion, co-chairman of the Israeli-Egyptian Committee, called the head of the Multinational Force in Sinai, Lt. Gen. Fredrick Bull-Hansen, requesting that his men search for the plane and pilot. The Force sent out two helicopters that searched the area with searchlights. A ground

force also conducted a search. IAF planes searched the area from Israel's side of the border.

After several hours, the search was halted. It resumed at dawn, and the MNF eventually found the aircraft and the pilot's body. Sion then called his counterpart in Cairo, requesting permission for an IDF Chaplaincy Unit to enter Egyptian territory to retrieve the body. The Egyptians agreed, but in the end an IDF liaison officer crossed the border.

The Egyptians and the MNF meanwhile transferred the pilot's body to el-Arish, and at 4:30 p.m., handed it over to Israel at Nitzana with full military honours.

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Polgat Tel Aviv 100 Allenby	

Lady Gaga Van Dyke BAGIR  
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### The weather at major Swissair destinations

6.2.1984

City	Temp	Wind	Clouds	Remarks
AMSTERDAM	4-13	4-5	Cloudy	Rain
BRUSSELS	2-8	4-6	Cloudy	Rain
CHICAGO	14-22	2-7	Clear	
COPENHAGEN	2-10	2-3	Cloudy	
DUBLIN	2-10	2-3	Cloudy	
FRANKFURT	0-12	10-15	Cloudy	Rain
GENEVA	1-10	2-3	Cloudy	
HELSINKI	0-12	10-15	Cloudy	Rain
HONG KONG	11-18	13-15	Cloudy	
JERUSALEM	10-18	10-15	Clear	
LONDON	6-13	10-15	Cloudy	
MADRID	1-10	10-15	Cloudy	
MONTREAL	0-12	10-15	Cloudy	Rain
MUNICH	1-10	10-15	Cloudy	
OSLO	1-10	10-15	Cloudy	
PARIS	6-13	10-15	Cloudy	
RIO DE JANEIRO	22-27	4-10	Clear	
SAO PAULO	24-29	3-8	Cloudy	
STOCKHOLM	0-12	10-15	Cloudy	
TOKYO	0-12	2-3	Cloudy	
TORONTO	1-10	2-3	Cloudy	
VIENNA	1-10	2-3	Cloudy	
ZURICH	0-12	10-15	Cloudy	

For the latest weather conditions, contact Swissair

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### THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy, colder and more humid, with rain in north and centre

City	Temp	Wind	Clouds	Remarks
Jerusalem	10-18	10-15	Clear	
Tel Aviv	14-22	2-7	Clear	
Haifa	14-22	2-7	Clear	
Beersheva	14-22	2-7	Clear	
Dimona	14-22	2-7	Clear	
Netanya	14-22	2-7	Clear	
Ramat Gan	14-22	2-7	Clear	
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## Former chief rabbi forms Sephardi list

By SARAH HONIG  
Post Political Reporter

TEL AVIV. — A new ultra-Orthodox party will contest the 11th Knesset elections — a Sephardi list which will compete with Agudat Yisrael.

The initiative for the move came from former Sephardi chief rabbi Ovadia Yosef.

The move has caused concern in Aguda, especially in view of the fact that it has taken out of support for Aguda in Jerusalem during last November's municipal elections by forming a religious Sephardi list. It is feared that such a nation-wide list could do similar damage to Aguda in the Knesset.

Yosef himself says that he does

not want to head the list, and there is already competition among several Sephardi yeshiva heads as to which of them will have the honour.

Yosef said that part of the reason for the new list is that the "religious parties never gave fair representation to Sephardim, although much of their support came from observant Sephardim." He noted that the fifth on Aguda's Knesset slate was Yeminite Rabbi Yosef Melamed of Rosh Ha'ayim. Since only four Aguda candidates made it into the Knesset, it was agreed that one would yield his Knesset seat mid-term in Melamed's favour. However, the rotation agreement was never carried out, a fact interpreted as discrimination against Sephardi Jews in Aguda.

Although Aguda claims that most of its support is not Sephardi, it did energetically count Sephardi voters. But its supreme authority, the Council of Torah Sages, is almost all Ashkenazi and the language in which deliberations are held is Yiddish.

Yosef's initiative is interpreted in Aguda as part of a vendetta against the party for having failed to back his demand that his term as chief rabbi be extended.

Fear of competition from the new list is seen as one more reason why Aguda opposes early elections.



Ovadia Yosef (Sven Nachstrand)

## Jerusalem man charged with murder and attempted murder

Avner Kol of Jerusalem was charged in Jerusalem District Court yesterday with murder, attempted murder and armed robbery.

The 25-year-old Kol was charged with the October 1982 slaying of Chantal Tarkut in Jerusalem. Kol, allegedly trying to kill her husband, Tzvi Dahan, ambushed the couple's car. He fired a revolver at Dahan, but missed and killed his 29-year-old wife, the charge sheet said.

Last month Kol was hospitalized after he tried to commit suicide by swallowing drugs in his Russian Compound holding cell. Police believe he had concealed the drugs on his body.

Charges were also brought yesterday in the court against another Jerusalem man, Pinhas Ovadia. Ovadia was charged with crimes related to the sale of heroin and hashish.

## War and divorce laws on Labour Young Guard agenda

By LEA LEVAVI  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Resolutions calling for a reduction of IDF deployment in Southern Lebanon, for civil marriage and divorce and for changes in the Labour Party's internal election procedures will be among those debated at the second convention of the party's Young Guard division to be held at Beit Berl this weekend.

"Our current deployment in Southern Lebanon has nothing to do with peace for our northern settlements," MK Haim Ramon, secretary-general of the division, said at a press conference here yesterday previewing the convention. "Even if we cannot withdraw completely from Lebanon right away, we can reduce our manpower there immediately and without any conditions."

On civil marriage and divorce, the convention will be asked to choose one of two resolutions. The more moderate calls for civil marriage and divorce only for those Israeli Jews who cannot be married by the rabbinate (such as a *cohen* who wants to marry a divorcee) and must today go abroad to marry or be married by proxy in Mexico. The more radical version calls for civil marriage and divorce alongside the religious establishment and available to anyone preferring that option.

The members of the Young Guard (up to age 35) want to democratize the party by having all Knesset candidates elected on a personal basis and by secret ballot, some by the party centre and some by the branches. The centre would then decide the placement of the candidates on the party's list.

## 'Effort needed to absorb Ethiopians'

By LIORA MORIEL  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

BEERSHEBA. — Ethiopian Jewish immigrants must undergo a rapid transformation from an agrarian society to an industrial society, but the bureaucrats who are charged with smoothing their way are not helping much, an anthropologist said here yesterday.

Dr. Michael Ashkenazi of the Ben-Gurion University was addressing the second annual conference of local anthropologists at the B-GU campus. Over 100 social scientists attended, and one of the sessions of the conference was devoted to Ethiopian Jews.

The conventional bureaucratic absorption process "is not suitable for Ethiopian Jewry," Ashkenazi

said. "They are made to feel utterly dependent, even though the professional aim of the absorption officials is to make them independent."

Dr. Jeff Halper of the Hebrew University took this further, claiming that Israel is not interested in pluralism, but rather in being a homogeneous European society. "There is a replay of the absorption process of the 1950s, planned and executed by clerks who reject the Falasha culture."

Lea Levavi added: "The Education Ministry is to employ 24 teachers to provide Hebrew language instruction for immigrants from Ethiopia. This was decided yesterday during a meeting between ministry Director-General Eliezer Shmueli, adult education department director Abraham Tziyyon, and teaching personnel director Zevulun Rolev."

For several months now, there have been no ulpan classes for Ethiopian immigrants because of a dispute between the adult education department and other departments of the ministry over financing.

(Safed — page 5)

**LIGHT FINGERS.** — A youth distracted a teller at a Bank Hapoalim branch in Holon yesterday, grabbed a wad of banknotes worth \$85,000 off the counter and fled.



President Chaim Herzog poses with notables of Sakhnin in the village mosque yesterday on the occasion of his first visit as president to an Arab town.

## President welcomed in Sakhnin

By YOEL DAR  
Special to The Jerusalem Post

SAXHNIN. — President Chaim Herzog has called for efforts to improve relations between Jews and Arabs for the sake of equality and justice.

Herzog made the call during a visit to the Galilee village of Sakhnin yesterday, his first to an Arab village since he took office.

Sakhnin is the largest Arab village in the country. Until the last municipal elections, the Rakah-led Democratic Front had run the local council for almost 10 years. Despite concern by several organizers over possible action by local extremists, the visit ended without incident.

At the entrance to the village Moslem and Christian clergymen, chairmen of neighbouring Arab local councils belonging to all parties and other dignitaries warmly greeted Herzog. The road leading into the village was lined with 2,000 pupils waving the national flag.

The president's speech was short. He declared that he considered himself the president of all the citizens of Israel without exception and called on the Arabs to act accordingly. The dignitaries applauded when he said that the development of the country must serve the interest of Jews and Arabs as well.

"Fate compels us to live together in this country and we have to do so without blurring the identity and the faith of any community. Our test is to ensure the security of our state and the peace of all its inhabitants, and those who do not adopt this line will be rejected."

The independent chairman of the local council, Mohammed Ghanim, urged the president to help residents solve problems such as expropriation of their lands and the assignment of several thousand dunams belonging to village residents to the jurisdiction of Misgav regional council. Herzog visited the local mosque and culled on MK Hamad Khalaili (Labour), who lives in the village. Then Herzog visited several new settlement outposts in Galilee.

## '400,000 Jews want to leave Soviet Union'

Jerusalem Post Staff

TEL AVIV. — Some 400,000 Soviet Jews who have taken the first steps leading to emigration are suffering economic and psychological hardship now that the authorities there have virtually closed the gates.

This was stated yesterday by a spokesman for the Public Committee for Soviet Jews, which is to hold its convention here today.

The figure of 400,000 was arrived at by subtracting the number of Soviet Jews who have left the USSR since 1970 from the number who have sent requests to relatives in Israel asking for documents of invitation to show the Soviet authorities — the first step in filing for permission to emigrate.

Last month, only a handful of Jews left the USSR. Last year, only 1,315 left, the lowest number since 1970.

The committee spokesman also reported that government-sponsored anti-Semitism is on the rise in the USSR. He said that some observers believe it may portend severe persecution of Soviet Jews if the Soviet Union's international position should deteriorate.

The committee plans a country-wide campaign next month to publicize the problems faced by Soviet Jews.

## Jordan stamps pin massacres on Israel

By JUDY SIEGEL  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Communications Ministry has sent a letter to the Universal Postal Union denouncing the issue of a series of stamps by Jordan blaming Israel for the massacre of Palestinian refugees at the Sabra and Shatilla camps in Beirut in September, 1982.

As a member of the UPU, Israel asked the organization to distribute among all the other members the Communications Ministry's denunciation of the Jordanian stamps. The postal union agreed to this request.

The UPU, based in Berne, recently circulated among its members the following notice: "The postal administration of Israel vehemently denounces the issue by the Jordanian postal administration of postage stamps bearing the fabricated and totally unfounded inscription 'The Massacre of the Palestinian Refugees in Sabra and Shatilla camps by Israel, 1982.' This inscription is a blatant and gross distortion of the truth even by the standards of Jordanian disinformation."

## YMCA to have free, afternoon classical concerts

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Free weekly classical music concerts, broadcast by Kol Yisrael, are to take place at the Jerusalem YMCA starting Thursday, February 16.

The concert series, called *Enkanta* (Pause), aims to present some of the new generation of performers to the music-loving public. The concerts are to be held every Thursday between 4:30 and 6 p.m.



A prospective reader in the library of a Jerusalem school ponders which book to choose. The elementary school in the East Talpiot neighbourhood has launched a programme to encourage pupils to read more.

## Haifa police arrest 22 alleged drug runners

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — Twenty-two suspected drug runners, members of two independent rings, have been arrested, police announced yesterday. The suspects allegedly engaged in the import and distribution of heroin and cocaine in the Haifa and central Galilee regions. Nearly all the drugs were smuggled in from Lebanon, police said.

The two gangs sold drugs worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. The majority of their clients were young people, Chief Inspector

Yitzhak Teiler, head of the Haifa police drug squad, told the press.

Among the suspects are both Jews and Arabs, Teiler said. Some of those being held are "new-faces," not previously known to police.

Teiler said the alleged gangs were uncovered during a routine investigation of the theft of a colour TV. The set was traced to a fence, who had sold it and bought heroin with the proceeds.

Teiler said that during the past couple of years the emphasis in drug use had shifted from hashish to

harder drugs.

Before the war in Lebanon, 90 per cent of drugs were brought to Israel from Europe and 10 per cent from Lebanon. But now the proportion has almost been reversed, he said. The drug runners exploited the easy access to Israel granted by the government to Lebanese visitors, he said.

Most of the cocaine came from Iran, via Europe.

One great difficulty in fighting the traffickers was that the law does not allow police to "penetrate" a suspect's body. This loophole was

## Engineering department is a failure, says Lahat

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — "The city's engineering administration is a total failure," Mayor Shlomo Lahat said yesterday at a press conference marking his 10th anniversary in office. He added that now that he's brought in a new city engineer, maybe the engineering administration will function better.

The mayor admitted that the engineering administration is inefficient and that residents requesting building permits for the most minor matters get "stuck" there.

It was revealed yesterday, for example, that MK Avraham Shapira (Agudat Yisrael) had enclosed the rear of the ground floor of his villa

in Tel Aviv with a glass wall without a permit being issued, apparently because of bureaucratic delays.

Lahat said that his achievements include bringing in Project Renewal to help the city's slum quarters, raising Tel Aviv's education system to the highest level in the country, turning the city into Israel's cultural and artistic capital, improving law and order in the city and achieving a Likud-Labour coalition.

Among his failures Lahat included not completing the new bus terminal and failing to reduce the city's dependence on the government.

Lahat told reporters that on Sunday his briefcase, filled with documents, was stolen from his car.

## Threats made in Petah Tikva over Sabbath cinemas, cafes

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Petah Tikva Mayor Dov Tavori yesterday sent to the Interior Ministry the municipal council's by-law amendment to permit entertainment and the opening of restaurants on the Sabbath and holidays. The mayor is seeking the ministry's ratification of the new move.

Tavori said he would not change his mind concerning his decision to "open" Petah Tikva on Friday nights in the face of threats by religious fanatics.

After the council voted in favour of the amendment Sunday, "He who desecrates the Sabbath shall die" was written on the municipal building's wall. Tavori and other council members received letters informing them that a religious ban (*herem*) had been put upon them.

Swastikas were painted on the wall of the religious council and the fence of the chief rabbi's house.

The head of the religious front and the municipal coalition, Avraham Marmorstein, said yesterday he doubted the legality of the amendment, which authorizes the mayor to open businesses and entertainment places on holidays and other days.

Marmorstein said the religious front would fight the amendment in legal ways, such as demonstrations, but not with violence.

Tavori said he did not pass the amendment to annoy the religious public and would see to it that no entertainment or other establishment would operate on the Sabbath near religious neighbourhoods. However, people have a right to choose how to spend the weekend, and now such a choice will be available in Petah Tikva, he said.

## Mayor says Rishon LeZion school reform to continue

By YITZHAK OKED  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

RISHON LEZION. — School reform here will continue and will be stepped up next September at the start of the new school year, Mayor Meir Nitzan told a press conference yesterday.

The controversial school reform, which started last September, led parents and teachers to close schools and keep children home. Only after Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, acting as arbitrator, declared that there was no going back on education reform did things quiet down.

Popular ex-mayor Hanania Gibstein lost the last elections on this issue. Nitzan before the elections promised voters that he would, if elected, review school reform. Yesterday, however, he declared that reform is now too far along for him to stop it.

He added that because of budget cuts for elementary schools, the most economical measure was to institute junior high schools.

He promised that all steps in the reform would be taken together with parents and teachers. Two new junior high schools are to be established in September.

## Herut faction may join Haifa municipal council

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — The four-member Herut faction on the municipal council here is to join the coalition, pending approval of an agreement by the Alignment.

The present coalition on the 27-member council, established after

the recent elections, comprises 18 councillors — the 13 Alignment representatives; three of the United Religious Front and one each of the Independent Liberals and Youth for Haifa factions.

Dr. Erich Loebe, No. 2 on the Herut list, is to be appointed as third deputy mayor.

## Bethlehem girl killed by old grenade

Jerusalem Post Reporter

A nine-year-old girl, Nisrin Sharuf of Bethlehem, was killed yesterday and four of her playmates were wounded when an old Italian hand grenade they were playing with exploded.

The children apparently discovered the grenade in a field close

to their home in the Wadi Ma'ali quarter of Bethlehem. They brought the grenade home and were playing with it when it exploded.

One of the children is in serious condition in Hadassah Hospital in Ein Kenem, two young boys are hospitalized in Bethlehem and another boy was treated and sent home.

Meanwhile, residents of the village of Abadiya east of Bethlehem demonstrated yesterday against the construction of a new road intended to serve the settlement of Neveh Adumim. After the local military governor arrived on the scene and calmed the villagers, work proceeded on the road which runs throughout a remote and largely arid tract of land which the villagers have traditionally used for grazing.

**SANCTIONS.** — X-ray workers at the Hasharon Hospital in Petah Tikva stopped working extra hours on Sunday to press for higher overtime pay.

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## Lost satellite found intact, but useless

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP). — After being lost in space for almost two days when it was launched from space shuttle Challenger, the Westar VI satellite was found Sunday, working well but in the wrong orbit.

"I think it's a total loss," said Bill Ziegler, a spokesman for Western Union, which owns Westar VI.

However, the space shuttle's astronauts yesterday successfully launched a second satellite, which is to operate as part of an Indonesian communications network.

After the first satellite was found, a ground station pointed it so its batteries could charge from the sun, said Ziegler. But there was no hope of raising the satellite to its planned 35,880 kilometre-high orbit where it would be stationary above the earth.

The most that can be hoped for is that "we might get a few hours twice a day," Ziegler said. "As far as we know, we have a spacecraft

(satellite) that's in the wrong orbit that's completely healthy."

The satellite, representing a \$75 million investment by Western Union, was ejected from the shuttle's cargo bay Friday.

The Westar VI was reportedly insured for more than \$100 million.

The failure apparently was in the rocket that was to carry the satellite from the shuttle into geosynchronous orbit, he said. In early ground testing, that rocket had failed when a nozzle came apart. This allowed the rocket plume to surround and overheat the rest of the engine, causing an undirected firing, Ziegler said.

Ziegler said Westar VI rescue was unlikely. "Maybe at some point we could bring in another engine up there, attach it and go on from there. But that's pretty far-out thinking."

Meanwhile, the spacewalk, without a lifeline, was still planned for today and Thursday.

## British mount manhunt for killers of Indian diplomat

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP). — Police launched a large-scale hunt yesterday for a mysterious Kashmiri separatist group which claimed responsibility for kidnapping an Indian diplomat found dead in central England on Sunday night.

The body of Ravindra Mhatre, 48, assistant commissioner of the Indian Consulate in Birmingham, was discovered at 10 p.m. Sunday in the driveway of a dairy farm near Hincley, 45 kilometres northeast of Birmingham, police said.

In New Delhi, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi called the assassination a "cowardly and brutal outrage." She convened an emergency meeting of her cabinet and ordered a tightening of security at Indian embassies around the world.

Mhatre was kidnapped Friday afternoon, and a previously unknown group calling itself the Kashmir Liberation Army claimed responsibility in a letter to Reuters

news agency. The group threatened to shoot him at 10 p.m. Saturday unless the Indian government freed certain political prisoners, including Kashmiri separatist Maqbool Butt, who awaits execution. The Times said the group had also demanded £1 million ransom from the Indian government.

Surinder Singh Gill, the Indian High Commission spokesman in London, said the kidnappers never contacted the commission or police to press their ransom demands, and allowed insufficient time for any of their demands to be considered.

Asked if the Indian government would have been prepared to meet any of the kidnappers' demands, Gill said: "If there had been some kind of contact through the police or the High Commission, we would have proceeded. Our chief consideration would have been to save this man's life."

## Time running out for Iranian towns

BAGHDAD (Reuters). — A military spokesman said yesterday Iraqi air and missile strikes against selected targets in seven Iranian towns could be launched any time after midnight last night.

Iraq said last Thursday it would launch attacks on targets in the towns after yesterday. Three days ago, Iraq added four more towns to the list, giving a four-day warning period for civilians to leave.

Baghdad said the threatened attacks would be in retaliation for Iranian artillery bombardments of Iraq

civilian areas, a charge Tehran has denied.

Most of the threatened towns are major provincial centres in western Iran.

"We will not be committed to any obligations towards the Iranian citizens and will choose a suitable time to implement what we had previously announced," the Iraqi spokesman said.

Iran's military command has reiterated that Tehran would strike back hard if Iraq carried out its threat, the Iranian national news agency Irna said yesterday.

## Iraq-Jordan oil pipeline may be built soon

NICOSIA (Reuters). — A plan to build a major new outlet for Iraqi oil through Jordan is gathering momentum and might be implemented shortly, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported yesterday.

The plan for an Iraqi-Jordanian pipeline, which would handle oil

both from Iraq's southern and northern oil fields and transport it to Akaba where a refinery might also be built, had the support of the Iraqi leadership and the U.S.

The pipeline would follow for much of the way the route of an old pipeline from Kirkuk to Haifa, which was shut down in 1948.

## UN panel attempting to outlaw all torture

GENEVA (Reuters). — The UN Human Rights Commission opened yesterday and Assistant Secretary-General Kurt Herndl called for faster action on a proposed convention to make torture an international crime.

In a speech formally opening the six-week session, Herndl told delegates: "It remains of the greatest importance that the convention against torture, including its implementation mechanism, is finalized in the near future so that it can become part and parcel of the body of international law concerning human rights and fundamental freedoms."

Delegates said there had been encouraging progress in a sub-committee trying to work out a draft torture convention, which has been under discussion here since 1978. There was still no agreement over a proposed clause that nations should accept on-the-spot inquiries when torture allegations were made.

Herndl, who heads the UN's Human Rights Centre, outlined to delegates of the 43-nation commission and representatives of some 50 human-rights groups, several potential new areas for UN action.

These included:

- Provision of UN assistance to governments to help them ensure full respect for human rights. This could take the form of training for police or judiciary.
- Providing regional advisers to help governments with the implementation of human-rights conventions and drafting of national legislation.
- Making new arrangements so that urgent action could be taken in response to human-rights violations or threats of them.
- That the commission address itself to the complaint, often voiced by the West, that UN human-rights activities are harsher on some countries than others and that not all situations of similar gravity are selected for action.

The commission continues today with a general debate. This year's agenda includes the situations in Afghanistan, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Iran, Kampuchea, Poland, Sri Lanka, and Cyprus.

Also in Geneva, the 40-nation conference on disarmament begins another session of talks today and after years of negotiation there is hope it might produce its first convention, a ban on chemical weapons.

## Reagan says he's restored respect for American power

EUREKA, Illinois (Reuters). — President Reagan, marking his 73rd birthday on the re-election campaign trail, said yesterday that his three years in the White House had restored respect for U.S. power in the world.

Reagan declared that the era of self-doubt following the Vietnam war was over.

"We're trying to see to it that American citizens — and it doesn't matter whether they are Navy pilots in the Gulf of Sidra or medical students in Grenada — can no longer be attacked or their lives endangered with impunity," he said.

U.S. planes have several times intercepted Libyan MIG fighters near U.S. carriers in the Gulf of Sidra, shooting down two of them in 1981. Last October U.S. forces invaded Grenada after the overthrow of prime minister Maurice Bishop.

rescuing U.S. medical students there.

Reagan made his comments to an audience at Eureka College, his old school, where in May, 1982, he made a speech which led to the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks with the Soviet Union in Geneva.

Democratic presidential hopeful Walter Mondale meanwhile received the personal campaign endorsement of Puerto Rican Governor Carlos Romero and was cordially welcomed by the island's top opposition leader.

At a rally of more than 5,000 Romero supporters at a sports arena near the capital, Romero said Mondale was the Democratic candidate who knew Puerto Rico best and could do the most for the former Spanish colony, now a commonwealth territory of the U.S.

## Carter: Withdraw marines at first opportunity

MELBOURNE (AP). — Former U.S. president Jimmy Carter yesterday said the U.S. should never have sent marines into Lebanon and that they should be withdrawn at the first opportunity.

"They have so far lost 269 men dead and are still taking casualties," he told a news conference. "I don't

believe the Soviets will get a toe-hold (in Lebanon) if the marines are withdrawn."

Carter said the presence of the marines in Beirut was also discouraging Lebanese factions from settling their differences.

Carter was in Australia to address a business convention.

## Expert says Andropov has new kidney

COLOGNE, West Germany (AP). — Soviet leader Yuri Andropov is recovering from a kidney-transplant operation and has been working "more than two days a week," a West German expert on the Kremlin said yesterday.

Eberhard Schneider said a "well-informed" Soviet source recently told him that Andropov's condition has improved and that the Soviet leader is expected to give a speech in public sometime before the elections to the Supreme Soviet on March 4.

"I assume, with great probability,

he will appear publicly before then, although one cannot predict how sickness will run its course," Schneider told the Associated Press in a telephone interview.

Schneider is a specialist in Soviet leadership at the Federal Institute of Scientific, East and International studies in Cologne.

Schneider refused to identify his source, but said he had talked to him personally in West Germany. "I have known him for many years, and he has never told me anything wrong," Schneider said.

## Everybody that's wantin' is gettin' now

### Guyana's latest cult is 'House of Israel'

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP). — In this small tropical country where Jim Jones brought his cult, another American has set up an empire.

David Hill, a fugitive from U.S. justice, calls himself Rabbi Washington and lives in luxury in this impoverished land as King of the House of Israel, a black supremacy sect with 8,000 followers.

The short, round, self-styled rabbi rides through the tree-lined streets of this South American capital in big American cars, armed guards beside him and an automatic pistol in his pocket.

He preaches each afternoon on the government-owned radio station that Jesus was black and a Jew and that black men will inherit the earth. His members work for the House of Israel, either on a 17,300-acre (69,200 dunams) farm in the

jungle not far from where Jim Jones and more than 900 members of his People's Temple died in a mass murder-suicide November 18, 1978, or in factories which produce African-style clothing and Rabbi Saffed Peanuts and Rabbi (banana) Chips.

The 55-year-old Washington is a militant supporter of socialist President Forbes Burnham. Some say Washington's 800-man Royal Cadet Corps is as well trained and armed as the national defence forces.

"People are afraid of him," said Rev. Andrew Morrison, a Jesuit priest and editor of *The Catholic Standard*, the only privately owned newspaper in Guyana. A member of Washington's congregation was convicted in 1980 of attacking and killing the paper's photographer as he took pictures of House of Israel demonstrators protesting an inquiry

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### St. Helens eruption predicted, evacuations ordered

VANCOUVER, Washington (AP). — Scientists predicted an explosive eruption from Mount St. Helens within 24 hours Sunday night, and the restricted zone around the southwest Washington volcano was closed.

Steve Brantley of the U.S. Geological Survey said the most powerful eruption that was likely to occur probably would not endanger anyone in the area. However, crews were evacuated from a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pumping station at Spirit Lake, about 8 kilometres north of the volcano's gaping crater.

### Family of seven murdered in Pakistan vendetta

ISLAMABAD (AP). — Intruders bound, gagged and stabbed a family of seven, including a five-year-old girl and a three-year-old boy and then set the house ablaze, the government news agency reported here on Sunday.

Associated Press of Pakistan cited police as saying the murders were probably the result of a family feud because no valuables were taken from the house in Multan, 632 kilometres southwest of here. The incident occurred about midnight Saturday.

### Blizzards cause havoc in central and southern U.S.

NEW YORK (AP). — Blowing snow and bitter cold blamed for at least 27 deaths roared out of America's Midwest yesterday, leaving a family of six dead in their car and turning routine travel into an icy hazard from Kentucky to Maine and as far south as Georgia.

Temperatures tumbled down to minus 10 centigrade overnight in northern Georgia and up to 10 centimetres of snow was reported in Jasper, Georgia.

Blinding snow whipped by winds gusting to 90 kph produced blizzard conditions over the weekend in parts of the Dakotas, Iowa and Minnesota, stranding hundreds of motorists.

### Four slain during bank robbery in Punjab

NEW DELHI (Reuters). — At least four people were killed and three injured yesterday when police and two Sikh militants exchanged fire in India's troubled Punjab state bordering Pakistan, the Press Trust of India reported.

The gunfight erupted after the Sikhs tried to raid a bank at Samundra in Hoshiarpur district.

Both the Sikhs, a policeman and a bank employee were killed in the cross-fire, PTI said.

Sikh leaders have called a general strike in Punjab tomorrow to back their demands for greater religious concessions and political autonomy.

### French farmers blockade trucks importing British beef

PARIS (AP). — French farmers, angry about imports of low-priced British beef, set up blockades in all of France's main ports on the English Channel yesterday between Calais and Le Havre to check trucks coming off ferries from England.

Every truck was forced to stop at a barricade manned by farmers and was allowed to proceed only if no beef was found. However, no incidents were reported.

The farmers say that British beef prices at 17.40 francs a kilo are artificially low and disrupting the French market.

### Pakistan's tribal chiefs to fine heroin pushers

ISLAMABAD (AP). — Tribal elders in the Khyber Pass, Pakistan's principal heroin producing area, said Sunday anybody caught trafficking in the trade will have his house burned and pay a fine equivalent to \$1,500, the government news agency reported.

Associated Press of Pakistan said Shinwari tribal chiefs decided on the new measures following an alarming increase in heroin addiction in tribal areas.

Of Pakistan's estimated 1.3 million drug users, 100,000 people are believed to be hooked on heroin, according to official figures.

### Kuwaitis bury \$5m. worth of whisky and beer

KUWAIT (AP). — Enforcing a religious injunction against booze, the Kuwaiti authorities have "crushed and buried in the sands" tens of thousands of whisky bottles and beer cans estimated at \$5 million, it was reported here yesterday.

"Bulldozers crushed 29,238 bottles of whisky of different brands and 4,445 cans of beer at a designated location 20 kilometres north of Kuwait City," said Mohammed al-Zoebi, a prosecution official in charge of combating narcotics and alcoholic beverages. "The whole lot was then buried in the sands, leaving no traces whatever."

The quantity was confiscated from smugglers at the Kuwait International Airport and border posts over the past six months, bringing to 90,000 the total number of whisky bottles rounded up in 1983, he said.

## Cheysson concludes Chad peace mission

PARIS (Reuters). — French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson briefed President Francois Mitterrand on his Chad peace mission yesterday amid reports that France has sent helicopter gunships to back its troops in the central African state.

Cheysson returned to Paris Sunday night after a five-day visit to N'Djamena, Addis Ababa and Tripoli in a search for a peaceful settlement of the civil war between President Hissene Habre and the Libyan-backed rebels of former Chadian leader Goukouni Oueddei.

Cheysson had two hours of talks

with Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi in Tripoli on Sunday, and described them afterwards as "solid and careful, point by point."

Gaddafi was quoted in the French press yesterday as saying he and Cheysson had discussed the possibility of finding a leader other than Habre and Goukouni to unite the Chadian people.

However, informed sources said Cheysson had stressed throughout his tour that Habre was the recognized leader of Chad in the eyes of France, African countries and the world community.

## England back down

CHRISTCHURCH (AP). — England cricket manager Allan Smith has backed down over his complaints about the state of the wicket in the second Test which England lost in disastrous fashion to New Zealand on Sunday.

After the game had finished in a resounding 132-run win for the Kiwis, Smith said he would send an official letter of complaint, couched in the strongest possible terms to the New Zealand Cricket Council. But he denied there would be any letter, saying there would only be a routine captain's report.

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# Desert sailing

NEGEV NOTEBOOK  
Liora Moriel

WHAT DO people in the desert do when winter turns warm and sunny? They go sailing, of course.

The camel is sometimes called the ship of the desert, but we're not talking about a gliding roll across the dunes. In this case, the boats are real enough, and so — incredibly — is the water.

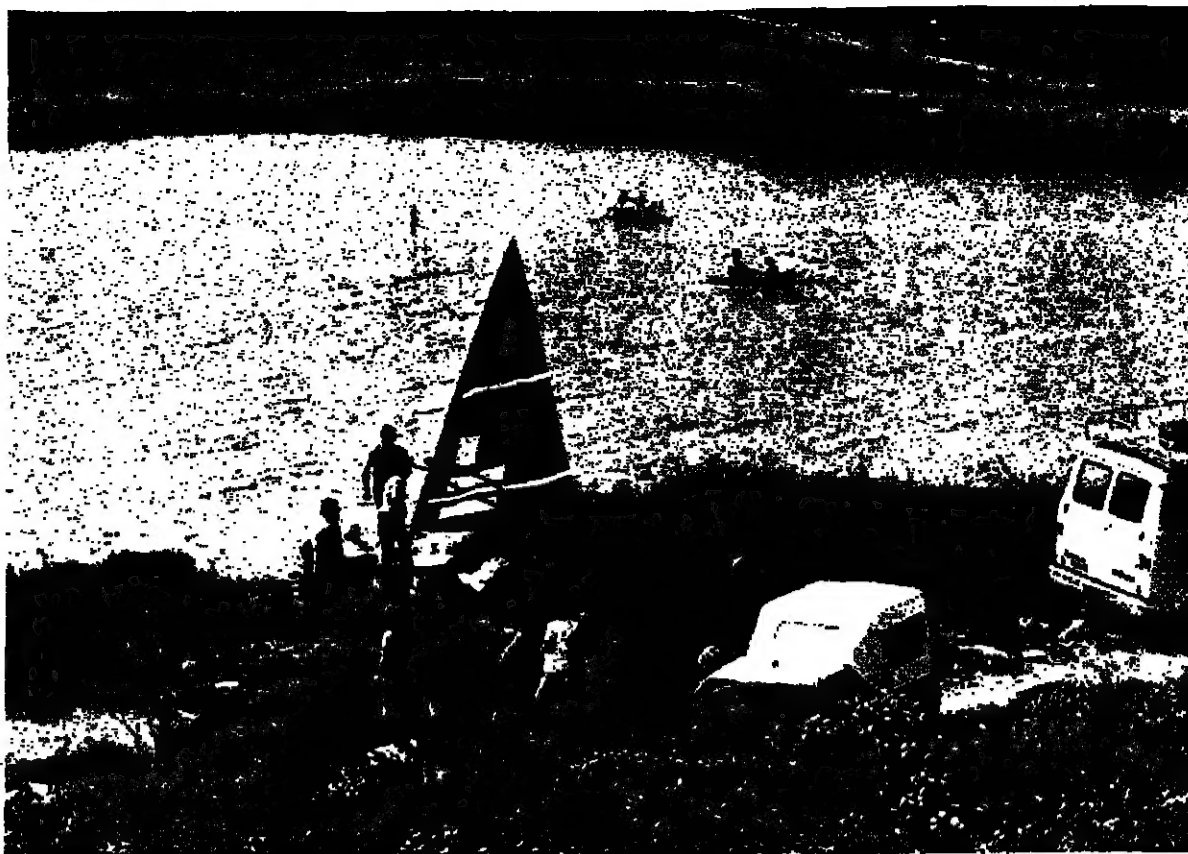
There are 32 water reservoirs in the Negev, as well as four stations for the National Water Carrier. Some of these reservoirs are small, but some, like the one I saw at Kibbutz Beit Kama north of Beersheba, are very large. Last year, owing to the plentiful rains, the reservoir was full to overflowing and I had to take the photo shown here to prove the story to my friends, who were naturally sceptical. It is indeed an unrealistic sight, watching sailboats, rowboats and windsurfers — in the middle of the desert!

Yitzhak Wolf, who is responsible for that reservoir and for many others told me that Beit Kama is his "oldest child." But, unlike his 18-year-old daughter who recently married, the reservoir is "alone and lonely," as this year's precipitations have been poor.

Israel's land reserves are in the south and the water is in the north. This led Israel to develop its first ambitious national project, the water carrier. Each year, it was recently disclosed here in a symposium to mark Nature Protection Week, nearly 200m. cu.m. of water are brought to the Negev for agriculture and industry alone (I use a mere 30 cu.m. of water a year in my home).

OVER THE next four years (the budget may be cut but the project will be implemented, even if it takes longer), a new pipeline will reach the southern region, carrying treated sewage from the central region. The water will be used for agriculture, and will in the end cover nearly half the need.

Meanwhile, many kibbutzim are constructing reservoirs to trap rainwater and floodwater. Wolf, who is in charge of the Negev's water projects for the Jewish Agency, and the Ministry of Agriculture (the two bodies work together in the southern region, the



Sailing on Beit Kama Reservoir.

(Liora Moriel)

only provision being that agency money is never used for projects beyond the pre-1967 borders), told me last week that there were almost no floodwaters to trap this winter. But the other reservoirs are slowly filling up.

He took me to see a giant reservoir, which can hold a million cu. m. of water, built jointly by Kibbutz Be'er and Kibbutz Nirim, to trap the water flowing in the Besor basin. The water is a bonus, because it is not considered part of any water allotment. Thus, a kibbutz with a water reservoir of its own (an expensive proposition in the short run) can expand its crop production and diversify. "The only way to grow is through more fields and new ideas," explained one kibbutznik.

Although the water is only used in irrigation, some people are not happy to see boats on the reservoirs, and some kibbutzim have banned boating altogether.

There is no sailing this year, said Wolf, simply because the reservoirs are not very inviting just now.

Two more projects are under way: a reservoir for Ashkelon and one for Eilat. Wolf hopes the budget axe will not fall on them. He has plans for two or three more reservoirs and says he is "fighting" for them. The most recently-completed reservoir is in Sderot in the western Negev.

I ASKED Dov Mills, head of Beersheba's meteorology station, how far behind this year's rains are in comparison with the average expected annually.

First of all, he advised, the correct term is not rain, but precipitation. So far this winter, there have been 75.6mm. of precipitation in the Negev, or 60 per cent of the 125mm. usually expected by the end of January. "But the temperatures have been normal for this time of year, quite pleasant, and in January there were an extra 17mm. of precipitation above the annual average."

Precipitations include real rain and the lightest of showers. The station, situated in the Institute for Applied Research at Ben-Gurion University, measures everything carefully. Mills explained that precipitation alone is not enough for a good harvest. After the rainy season, the factor to consider is the rate of evaporation from the soil. Thus, an unusually hot spring can be no less damaging than poor precipitation.

"Before there were drought compensations, the Beduin would never plant before the rains. Jews plant in November, and wait to see what happens." If the rains fail to come, as was the case this winter, they plough the fields under and plant again.

HOW IS drought determined? This is an important question for farmers in dry years, when the crops are expected to yield only a fraction of what they had hoped. In the Ministry of Agriculture, the announcement is not made in haste, and usually the decision as to whether a certain year evoked drought or not is taken only in

March.

Eldad Gissin, southern district director of the ministry, told me that "those who deserve it will get compensation if and when drought is officially proclaimed." He admitted that this year, the best those farmers who did not irrigate their wheat fields can hope for is a yield of 100kg. per dunam, down from the usual 400kg.

The Mekorot water company today supplies 3.5m. cu.m. of water to irrigate fields thirsty for precipitation. There are nearly half a million dunams of wheat and barley in the Negev. Last year, they were verdant and beautiful. This year they are scruffy.

WHEN I first came to Beersheba eight years ago, I lived on the edge of the city. I still live in the same house, but two new neighbourhoods now stand between me and the desert. Eight years ago, I used to take frequent walks in the nearby desert with friends and our dogs.

One winter, we noticed that all around us everything was green. Nowhere was there a stretch of bare sand. "How amazing," we exclaimed in wonder and awe. "Although there is no one around, God has planted this beautiful grass all over the desert."

Only later did we discover that what we had witnessed was the effect of drought.

The grass we had seen was

endless wheat fields. And this is the way they look now, to anyone who

# Clapton still king

By DAVID HOROVITZ  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

CLAD IN suit and fresh white shirt, Eric Clapton on Sunday night put on the first of two shows at Binyanei Ha'uma to shame the young pretenders to his crown.

There were no smokebomb gimmicks, no artificial guitar-hero poses. Just music to dance, sing and thrill to. Music to help you defend yourself for a while against those who continue to scoff at rock.

Clapton's been through it all. Periods of superstar adulation, years as a heroin addict — he's seen the best and worst that rock has to offer and come through.

Now he plays because he wants to, where he wants to, and he seems to have developed something of an affection for Israel. An affection that is reciprocated, if Sunday's show was anything to go by.

Clapton was welcomed on stage like some sort of conquering hero. Masses of people pushed to the front, and the bouncers were having a hard time keeping them off the stage.

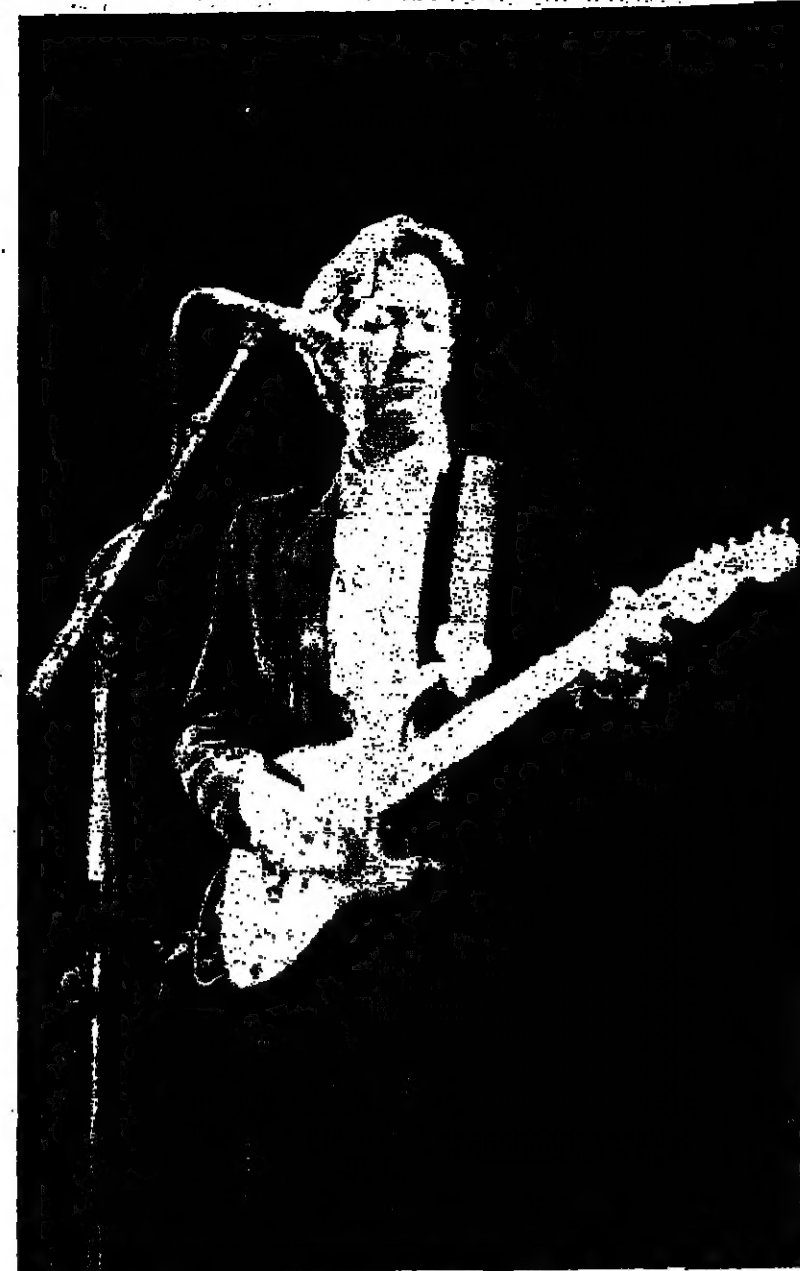
Clapton and his superb band kicked off with "Everybody Oughta Make a Change" from his latest *Money and Cigarettes* album, and the crush at the front got worse. He moved on to "Motherless Children" and "I Shot the Sheriff", and the bouncers were looking very worried.

Then came the evening's first surprise, as Clapton launched into the opening chords of "Badage," the Cream classic co-written with George Harrison that he hasn't played for years.

The place went wild. The audience was up and dancing, and the show was well and truly alive.

"Shape I'm In" featured some classy guitar duelling between Clapton and Albert Lee, with Lee more than holding his own. Then it was back to the early days for "Blues Power."

AN HOUR had passed and Clapton and Lee still had jackets on. Bassist Donald "Duck" Dunn was wearing a sweater and keyboard player Chris Stainton was in leather trousers. Perhaps they had air-conditioning on stage.



Eric Clapton performing at Binyanei Ha'uma on Sunday night. Albert Lee is in the background. (Rahamim Israeli)

The audience was feeling the heat, however, and "Wonderful Tonight" did nothing to lower temperatures. This seems to be the best known Clapton song in Israel — most folks were singing along, to Clapton's evident delight.

The unlikely highlight of the show was an old Otis Rush blues number, "Double Trouble," which turns up on Clapton's *Just One Night* live album. Eric once said he wanted to be able to knock out an audience with one single guitar note. On "Double Trouble" he did. He played sparingly, but so beautifully, his guitar almost sang with a life of its own.

Then it was into the finish with "Tulsa Time," "Cocaine," and a full length "Layla" wrapping matters up with some style. The bouncers had

given up the unequal struggle and were cheering with the rest of us for an encore.

Back Clapton came for a rousing "Further On Up the Road" to send us off singing, in plenty of time for the last bus.

Throughout, Clapton displayed that unique ability to find the perfect note that first brought him fame. If anything, his soloing was too complex to follow live, but that's a minor criticism — the man was excellent.

Clapton is no youngster, of course, and he can't go on playing forever I guess. But Sunday's show was about skill and timing — qualities that he should retain for a good few years yet.

Oh, the dish takes his jacket off for the encore!

# Misplaced spotlight on Safad

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL/Jerusalem Post Reporter

SAFAD isn't a place that makes much news. But in the last month or so the quaint hillside town got more than its share of mention. Not, however, because of the beauty of its natural setting or the aura that surrounds this traditional home of Jewish mysticism. The mentions were of another sort, and there wasn't anything pretty about them.

Within a few days most of Israel was convinced that there was an outright confrontation between the black skinned Jews of Ethiopia at the Safad Absorption Centre and the black garbed religious Jews of the *haredi* (ultra-Orthodox) sect in the town. From the material that was broadcast, one really didn't know what to expect. Certainly one expected to find trouble.

The newly-elected mayor of Safad, Zeev Pearl, laughed when asked about the reports. "There hasn't been any trouble and I doubt that there will be," he said. "One person, serving whatever aims, wrote some letters and talked to the people from television. That's all."

Later, after speaking to a large number of people, of both communities, it proved that the mayor

was correct. There isn't any trouble.

There is, however, a certain amount of fear, and it was this fear that gave rise to the activities of Moshe Blau, a man of the *haredi* community who wrote letters to the various government offices and to the media. Speaking as if he were the representative of his community Blau said that the community did not want the Ethiopians in Safad.

Blau was also extensively interviewed by journalists and in all cases spoke as if he represented a large following. In fact this following does not exist, and Blau was reprimanded both by his own rabbi and by the chief Rabbi of Safad, Rabbi Simha Kaplan. Kaplan told a group of concerned Safad residents that he deplored the entire issue and opposed the actions of Moshe Blau. He also reaffirmed the rabbinical ruling stating that the Jews of Ethiopia are just that, Jews.

What appears to be one of the real reasons for the actions of Moshe Blau was that he and others

in Safad claim that the building in which the absorption centre is currently located had been promised to Agudat Yisrael by the Housing Ministry a year or so ago. They claim that the building was then given over for an absorption centre without their having been told anything about it.

THE JEWS of Ethiopia don't like the term "Falasha," by which they are commonly known. They point out that this appellation was attached to them by others, coming from the Semitic word "polesh," the one who breaks in, the outsider. They call themselves Beta-Israel, the House of Israel, and prefer to be known as Ethiopian Jews.

There are only some 30 families at the absorption centre in Safad. Other small groups around Israel are living through their period of absorption in similar circumstances.

What was evident in Safad was a lot of people who are deeply concerned over this recent flurry of attention. They know that in the absorption of any divergent group there are problems. But there were a lot more *haredi* sect members like Dr. Bernard Woolf — who is collecting gifts of clothing for the Ethiopian immigrants and had been to visit them (and been invited back) — than the Moshe Blau variety.

David Bedin, social worker and organizer of the Safad Community Building and Development Founda-

tion, also is concerned about these matters. He doesn't deny that the rigid attitude on the part of some members of the *haredi* community makes them fear the newer, dark skinned residents. He knows just how hard it is for some to accept that these Jews are really Jews at all.

But the Jews of Ethiopia have no doubts about their Jewishness. Now, being dragged willy-nilly into a new culture, one might even say a new century, they are afraid that the erosion of traditional values and tribal life may harm the cohesive patterns they have always known.

Many of the *haredi* community feel that the absorption of the Ethiopian Jews is a test of their own faith and their own Jewish identity. They say that if they cannot live with these so very different Jews, then they themselves must reassess their own attitudes.

That's what one finds in Safad today...thoughtfulness and a desire to prove that Jews are one people. Perhaps the warning sounded was in good place, some say. Thank heavens nothing happened. There was one man who made some trouble, and the media paid him more attention than he deserved. But in the end there's no resistance to the absorption of the Jews of Ethiopia in Safad. The mayor, speaking for the city, made that clear.

"When the Ethiopian Jews leave the absorption centre, we hope they will decide to stay in Safad. There are flats here, and we hope there will soon be more jobs. We intend to make them as attractive an offer to become residents as they will get from any other town."

Piano Recital — Varda Nishri (Lithuanian Church, Old City of Jerusalem, February 2). Works by Bach, Kuhnau and Mozart.

AN EVENING with Varda Nishri is not so much a concert or a recital as a meeting between friends. The church refectory provided a suitably intimate setting for the pianist to convey the joys of music. Her programmes are structured to bring out parallels or other didactic points and reflect a hero-worship of J.S. Bach. While one may sometimes dispute certain interpretational details, one cannot deny her impressive knowledge and scholarship. Why she has to find an excuse to perform Mozart (a week after his 228th birthday) is difficult to understand. Unfortunately, her performance of this music did not convince, as does her playing of Bach.

Varda Nishri's choices were almost entirely pieces by the "tragic" Mozart, items hardly ever performed publicly with the exception of Sonata, K.310. For this she deserves credit and gratitude. However, dynamics seemed poorly controlled and sounded haphazard. Her tendency to exaggerate emotion and occasionally to go beyond acceptable decibels rather diminished the joy and pleasure of listening to these rarely performed Mozart pieces.

Miss Nishri's erudition and carefully prepared explanations undoubtedly offer a wealth of knowledge, but not everyone attending a concert wants this, especially if lengthy explanations are given in English and Hebrew. It might be preferable to attach notes to the printed programme and use the time for playing the music instead of talking about it.

YOHANAN BOEHM

# Sad side of Mozart

MUSIC

CAMERAN SINGERS — Lorna Cooke DeVaron conducting (Tel Aviv Museum, January 31). Works by J.S. Bach, Victoria, Thompson, Monteverdi, Barber, Brahms, Tuck, spirituals.

AN EXCELLENT choir conductor, Lorna Cooke DeVaron handles choristers with great competence and complete inner conviction. What she achieved was, of course, dependent on the resources available. All the choral numbers were highly impressive and pleasing while the others, with soloists, proved deficient.

Bach's motet "Lobet den Herrn, alle Heiden" was sung with remarkable lightness and flawless progress of polyphonic lines. In Victoria's solemn "O vos omnes," Miss Cooke DeVaron achieved a perfect blending of vocal colours, coming very, very close to the true ideal of renaissance a cappella singing. "Leutus sum" by Monteverdi, on the other hand, depending mostly on

soloists, emerged poorly. Of all the seven singers participating, only bass Ralf Frider was capable of coping with an exposing solo.

The performance of the two recorders also seemed unworthy of the occasion. This low however was followed by a brilliant performance of Barber's very strong "Reincarnation" in which Miss Cooke DeVaron extracted powerful sonorities from the singers and which concluded the first part of the concert with a truly exhilarating final passage.

Brahms' "Neue Liebeslieder-Walzer" again suffered from the inadequacies of the solo forces involved. There was one exception: Ruth Tavor, whose soprano, though still needing much further development, revealed a beautiful vocal quality, musicality and what seems perhaps the most promising asset — a slight but exciting dramatic tremor.

The Brahms choral numbers were given deeply absorbing performances, showing great flexibility in dynamics, and touching melodiousness. Regrettably Anat Sharon-Tavor and Ariel Cohen seemed unable to adjust themselves to Miss Cooke DeVaron's relaxed, flexible and emphatic manner. Their keyboard parts remained stiff and dry.

The final three spirituals were sheer delight.

BENJAMIN BAR-AM

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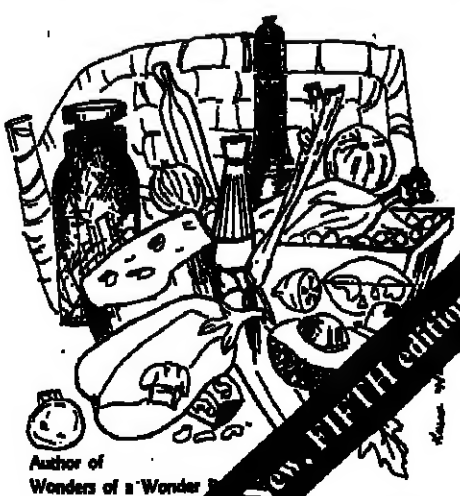
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## 19 shares 'buyers only' second day

TEL AVIV. — "Everything is coming up roses," one broker exulted yesterday. He was referring to the incredible performance of the share market, which put in one of the strongest one-session performances of recent memory. With the exception of last week's three-day rally, the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange has been experiencing a period of stagnation which began exactly four months ago, when trading was stopped for a fortnight.

The "bear market" which began with the official cessation of the stabilization of the bank shares had reached a nadir, with most shares having fallen by 70-80 per cent in real terms.

Triggering yesterday's rally was the Treasury announcement that it was taking a variety of steps to bolster the capital market. Prior to that the banking community had lowered interest rates on certain overdrafts. These factors, coupled with an underlying desire by the public "to make a quick buck" were apparently sufficient to bring in individual investors.

Members of the banking community reported that clients had been visiting the offices of their securities departments, and that a small flow of buy orders was felt.

Anything which was not firmly tied down seemed to rise in price yesterday. The bank shares, part of the agreement with the Treasury, again came in for strong demand, and their prices moved ahead by about five per cent, on the average. The rest of the market, not including these shares which were

### Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

By JOSEPH MORGENSTERN

registered as "buyers only" advanced by about 10 per cent.

The volatility statistics were astounding. Of a total of 348 securities whose prices changed by five per cent or more, no fewer than 342 were ahead by five-to-ten per cent.

The General Share Index rose by a hefty 3.4 per cent. Specialized financial institution securities enjoyed the day's best performance, as they advanced by 8.35 per cent, on a sectoral basis. Land development, real estate, citrus plantation issues, as well as oil equities grabbed the second-best position, with group gains of 6.6 per cent each.

Trading turnovers of just under \$572 million would undoubtedly have been considerably higher, if not for the 153 "buyers only" situations which resulted in no trading taking place.

In view of the exuberant stock market conditions it was little wonder the index-linked bonds took a back seat. Prices were generally unchanged, on a moderate turnover of less than \$147.5m.

The shekel was devalued by 112 agorot. The relatively sharp devaluation came in the wake of modest devaluations since the beginning of the month. In view of the recent weakness of the dollar on foreign currency markets in Europe, the Treasury had apparent-

ly allowed itself to slow down the rate of the shekel's devaluation. At today's session there will be 19 securities which will be trading without the conventional price restraints. The 19 issues were registered as "buyers only" for the second consecutive day.

Prominent on this special "buyers only" list were the shares of two banking institutions, The First International Bank and the Maritime Bank.

Gains of up to 10 per cent were found in the insurance group. Hasneh was 10.1 per cent higher, but the Hasneh option outdid itself as it soared by 62.2 per cent, to 186.5.

The service and trade group accounted for only some 2.5 per cent of the total turnover yesterday. The reason for the low figure was connected with the many "buyers only" situations.

Land development, real estate and citrus plantation shares were sharply higher. Property & Building was just one among the many issues which were posted as "buyers only."

Industrials followed suit and prices surged ahead. Options moved ahead at a faster clip than the shares, and gains of more than 25 per cent were recorded. Arit was "buyers only," but Elron traded unchanged. Spectronix picked up another 10 per cent.

In the investment company group the prestigious shares of the Israel Corporation were both on the "buyers only" list. Discount Investments, both registered and bearer, repeated the action of the I.C. The Clal Israel 50 shares were on the "buyers only" list for the second session.

Oil securities advanced by up to 10 per cent.

The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange announced that it was allowing managers of mutual funds to revalue unit prices on the basis of 10 per cent for each security which was registered as "buyers only."

**Most active stocks**

IDB	4430	155,659.1m.	+20
Mizrahi	1820	108,330.2m.	+90
Leumi	1905	82,509.4m.	+90
Shares traded:	157,047		
Convertible:	151,424		
Bonds:	15,474.3m.		

**LONDON BANK RATES**

	February 6, 1984	Prev.	Close
Bank base rate	9	9	
Call money	9 1/8	9 1/8	
91-day Treasury	8 3/4	8 3/4	
3-months Interbank	9 1/8	9 1/8	
Lloyds Bank			

### Bank of Israel exchange rates

February 6, 1984

	IS
U.S. dollar	125.32
British sterling	178.77
German mark	45.679
French franc	14.862
Swiss franc	40.485
Swedish krona	56.778
Norwegian krone	15.488
Danish krone	16.114
Japanese yen	12.576
Canadian dollar	21.417
Australian dollar	100.60
South African rand	101.26
Belgian franc (10)	22.313
Austrian schilling (10)	64.815
Italian lire (100)	74.365
Japanese yen (100)	53.739
Irish pound	141.05
Spanish peseta (100)	80.385
Jordanian dinar	329.59
Lebanese lira	21.240
Egyptian pound	108.73

**Commercial Banks**  
(not part of "arrangement")

	Price	Volume	Change	% change
OHH	1510	30	+102	+7.2
Maritime 0.1	388	b.o.t.	218	+4.9
Maritime 0.5	172	b.o.t.	8	+4.9
N. American 1	3700	3	-10	-3
N. American 5	235	54	-23	-10
First Int'l 1	1555	27	72	+4.7
First Int'l 5	387	b.o.t.	13	+4.7
Danot 1	80	b.o.t.	-3	-4.6
Danot 5	302	b.o.t.	10	+3.2
First Int'l 5	258	b.o.t.	-13	-5.3
FIBI	256	b.o.t.	-12	-4.9

**Commercial Banks**  
(part of "arrangement")

	Price	Volume	Change	% change
IDB	9750	2	+870	+10.0
IDB R	4420	3521	-210	-4.8
IDB R	3420	6	+180	+5.3
IDB P 11	26100	1	+300	+2.0
IDB P 11	315	1	+200	+10.0
Union 0.1	3350	296	+150	+4.7
Discount B	5520	1	+200	+3.8
Discount B	3380	1301	+60	+1.1
Discount B	2490	30	+328	+7.9
Discount B	680	51	+76	+12.6
Mizrahi B	1820	5963	-90	-4.9
Mizrahi B	3140	68	+290	+10.2
Mizrahi B	1150	304	+50	+4.6
Mizrahi B	14679	1	—	—
Hapoalim P	3690	797	+85	+3.1
Hapoalim P	3000	2744	+40	+1.3
Hapoalim P	2970	112	+190	+6.8
Hapoalim P	11340	10	+1300	+13.1
General A	7820	48	-230	-3.0
General A	17988	1	+1800	+11.1
General A	7336	2	+750	+10.3
General A	6590	5	+120	+1.8
General A	371	100	+48	+12.9
Leumi 0.1	1905	4331	+90	+5.0
Leumi 0.5	2995	66	+295	+12.8
Leumi 0.5	373	374	+76	+11.8
Leumi 0.5	1290	5	+46	+3.7
Finance Trade 1	1290	5	+46	+3.7
Finance Trade 5	2180	12	+230	+11.8

**Hotels, Tourism**

	Price	Volume	Change	% change
Gatzi Zohar 1	407	136	+37	+10.0
Gatzi Zohar 5	180	20	+16	+9.8
Dun Hotels 1	460	b.o.t.	22	+5.0
Dun Hotels 5	227	185	+21	+10.2
Coral Beach	275	64	-8	-2.8
Yarden Hotel	238	90	+3	+1.3
Yarden Hotel	80	341	+9	+12.7
Yahalom	99	363	+6	+6.5
Yahalom op.	48	108	n.c.	—

**Computers**

	Price	Volume	Change	% change
Data	204	145	+19	+10.1
Hilton 1	440	171	+50	+3.0
Hilton 5	1700	171	+50	+3.0
Y-tone	1242	308	+38	+3.2
Clal Comp.	359	56	n.c.	—
Clal Comp.	234	1	+28	+13.6
M.L.L. 1	1160	1	+39	+3.5
M.L.L. 5	331	59	+30	+10.0
M.L.L. op.	190	20	n.c.	—
Mashov	276	37	+25	+10.0
Artad 0.5	241	1	+12	+5.2
Nikav 5	115	b.o.t.	+5	+5.0
Nikav op.	108	b.o.t.	+7	+6.9
Team 1	872	15	+42	+5.1
Team op.	551	20	+15	+2.8

**Real Estate, Building**

	Price	Volume	Change	% change
Oren	158	134	+11	+7.5
Azoria Prop.	168	b.o.t.	+8	+5.0
Azoria op.	262	56	+38	+17.0
Azoria op.	102	705	+15	+1.8
Azoria op.	37	b.o.t.	+1	+4.2
Elion	24	1	+1	+4.4
Amnion	115	b.o.t.	+5	+5.0
Baronovitz 5	1050	18	+82	+8.5
Baronovitz 10	1033	10	n.c.	—
Azaria	115	b.o.t.	+5	+5.0
Azaria op.	99	53	+16	+25.0
Azaria op.	467	14	+10	+2.1
Artad 0.5	135	44	+6	+4.7
Ben Yakar 1	183	b.o.t.	+9	+5.2
Ben Yakar 5	85	10	n.c.	—
Baronovitz 5	117	4512	+10	+9.9
Baronovitz 10	71	10	+1	+1.4
Danker	127	184	+11	+9.9
Danker 5	146	500	+13	+10.2
Ducker 5	87	230	+8	+10.1
Ducker op.	55	200	+1	+1.9

**Mortgage Banks**

	Price	Volume	Change	% change
Adamim 0.1	1076	275	+98	+10.0
Adamim 0.5	1317	410	+50	+4.0
Gen. Mortgage	1267	1	—	—
Carmel 1	1340	40	-70	-5.0
Carmel 5	732	98	-73	-10.0
Carmel deb	147	315	+7	+5.0
Dynan	926	33	+33	+3.8
Dev. Mortgage a	474	b.o.t.	+23	+5.0
Dev. Mortgage b	333	518	-88	-35.9
Mishkan 1	3570	1	n.c.	—
Independence	1850	1	n.c.	—
Tefahot P	871	b.o.t.	+4	+0.5
Tefahot 1	982	b.o.t.	+47	+5.0
Tefahot deb. 1	407	1	+12	+3.0
Tefahot deb. 2	212	465	+19	+9.8
Jayson 1	320	88	+22	+7.4
Jayson 5	298	12	n.c.	—
Jayson op.	218	118	+19.8	+9.8
Meraiv	218	b.o.t.	+10	+4.8

Mishkan r	3570	1	n.c.
Mishkan b	1850	1	n.c.
Independence	871	b.o.i.	+41
Tefahot p r	982	b.o.i.	+47
Tefahot r	407	—	+12
Tefahot deb. 1	212	465	+19
Tefahot deb. 2	130	88	+22
Jaysour 1	298	12	n.c.
Jaysour 5	115	284	+18



Ari Rath  
Editor and  
Managing Director

THE JERUSALEM  
POST

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Editor

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## The sad closing chapters

DURING the past two days Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has made it repeatedly clear that Israel is now set to leave Lebanon.

From Mr. Shamir's failure expressly to link such an Israeli troop pullback to a Syrian withdrawal, it could readily be inferred that Jerusalem would act even if Damascus decided to keep its own forces in Lebanon. At the same time the premier went out of his way to emphasize that the IDF's evacuation of Lebanon would not be affected by the fortunes of President Amin Jemayel's collapsing regime.

The only condition for an Israeli pullback, he said, was "that the security of our northern border be assured."

This is a wise policy, even if — or rather because — it suggests the final abandonment of the grandiose ambitions that motivated the government's — or more precisely Ariel Sharon's — design for a Lebanese war: the reconstruction of the Land of the Cedars as an effectively Maronite-ruled state allied with Israel, and the ouster of Syria and all Syrian influence from Lebanon. Israel's purpose is now being officially, modestly — and properly — defined as security.

The trouble is that the circumstances are now less propitious for guaranteeing the peace of Galilee than they were on June 6, 1982, when the IDF crossed the border, ostensibly in order to remove the Jewish settlements in the north from the 40km. range of terrorist katyushas in southern Lebanon.

To be sure, the PLO's infrastructure there has been wiped out. But the scourge of terrorism has not been ended. Instead of the devil it knew, Israel has now had to face a newly-created foe in the local Shi'ites, who comprise an overwhelming majority of the population in the region. The Shi'ites had themselves been victims of PLO oppression, and originally welcomed the IDF's entry into their localities. But the harassing measures taken by the Israeli soldiers for their own protection have turned a great many Shi'ites against Israel.

Thus the IDF's protracted stay in southern Lebanon has produced the conditions not of security but of insecurity for Galilee.

Today a sizable number of southern Shi'ites willingly offer haven and support to terrorists, many of whom are doubtless themselves Shi'ites. An attempt to base the peace of Galilee on Shi'ite cooperation now will have less chance of success than it did a year ago, when the government's efforts were mainly directed at obtaining formal concessions from the Lebanese authorities. Yet with the death last month of Major Sa'ad Haddad, the one local military force firmly aligned with Israel has been dealt a blow.

Finally, although the PLO is no longer deployed militarily in southern Lebanon, it remains a potential threat, in different form. Yasser Arafat at least managed to keep all factions of his organization from violating his cease-fire undertaking to Israel. But he has been removed, his place taken by Syrian-backed Abu Mussa, who aims to restore the PLO as a fighting terrorist force.

It is easy enough to speak, even now, of assuring the security of the country's northern border. But it is difficult to see what new agency could provide that assurance that was not available 20 months ago, namely an international force, and the IDF manifesting its deterrent and retaliatory capacity from this side of the border. But now the conditions may be even harder than before.

To achieve this end, it would surely not have been necessary to wage a bloody and costly war in Lebanon.

## Karp Kosmetics

THE KARP Report, which lays bare the failure of the security authorities to take adequate steps against Jews who violate the rights of Arabs in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, is due to be placed today before the Knesset Law Committee, and made public. On Sunday the cabinet took it up, without most ministers having read the text.

This did not prevent those ministers who were familiar with the report from seeking to preempt and undercut it even prior to publication. The clear purpose was to create the impression around the cabinet table that there was very little to the allegations by author Yehudi Karp, a deputy attorney-general. Thus the interior minister, Yosef Burg, quoted from a police document which claimed that the report was one-sided, failed to show the whole picture and reflected the personal views of Ms. Karp.

Justice Minister Moshe Nissim sought to minimize the effect of the expected revelations about the number of unsolved crimes by Jews against Arabs in the administered territories by promising to submit a list of unsolved crimes by Arabs against Jews. As though the point were not that there was a grave disparity in the attention paid by the authorities to the two kinds of crime.

The cabinet was plainly expected to draw the conclusion that the law applied equally to Jews and Arabs in the territories. Indeed, a statement to that effect starts off a policy declaration on law enforcement in the territories tabled by Mr. Nissim and adopted by the cabinet with a few amendments.

The statement is patently untrue. Jews and Arabs in the territories are, for one thing, subject to two different legal systems — Jews to ordinary Israeli law, Arabs to military law. Thus while the case of a Jew accused of murdering an Arab will be heard before an Israeli district court, an Arab charged with the assassination of a Jew will be brought before a military court from the judgment of which there is no appeal.

Any attempt to whitewash such basic facts can only prove that the legal equality of Jews and Arabs in the territories is, at best, a desideratum.

## POSTSCRIPTS

**PS** A CALIFORNIA version of Israel's *Dapei Zahav* (Golden Pages) is being produced by a private company in Encino and creating much demand among the Hebrew-speaking population of Los Angeles, according to Prof. Daniel Elazar of the Jerusalem Centre for Public Affairs.

The publishing company, which apparently has no connection with *Dapei Zahav* in Israel, lists four Hebrew-language newspapers, Israelis who sing telegrams and provide chiropractic services and

who are professional accountants and video engineers. Surprisingly, there are no listings of rabbis or synagogues in the 100-page book.

"The mores and institutions of Israeli society are starting to be planted abroad in Israeli ghettos" and instead of looking outward to the local Jewish community, the expatriates are searching for ways to foster their sense of national identity and longing for their homeland through other means," says Elazar.

J.S.I.

# The Levinson leaks

By YITZHAK TAUB

BANKERS are supposed to be a secretive lot and should never divulge information about the transactions they handle for other people. They are the trustees of the deposits made by their customers. Extreme discretion is required of them. And nowhere are they more discreet than in dealing with their own actions.

Even the tax authorities are denied access to people's bank accounts. Only the Bank of Israel's examiner of banks is to demand any document or item of information necessary for supervising banking practices. This information remains secret unless circumstances require a public act such as the closure of a particular bank or restrictions on its freedom of operation.

Of late, some of the rules of secrecy seem to have been tossed to the wind. The public has been treated to an endless stream of information and misinformation regarding the banking affairs, the personal relationships and the alleged international transactions of Ya'acov Levinson, former chairman and chief executive of Bank Hapoalim.

These leaks, if indeed they are leaks, are almost entirely one-sided. Their purpose is to prove Levinson's involvement in transactions that had not been formally approved by the bank's present directors and executive officers. Levinson's own statements have been confined to a request for an objective examination of the matter.

At first, the press leaks were vague, and only hinted at unacceptable behaviour. But before long the piquant gave way to apparently documented details of international transactions. Levinson continued to react calmly, addressing himself only to specific points and once again asking for an objective examination. Such facts as were disclosed by a committee of two, Amiram Sivan and Shraga Rothman, were handed selectively to the press and naturally the press had a field day. However I doubt if

even the most naive reporter believed that he had all the facts.

HOW COULD it happen that what was sacrosanct one day could be used as ammunition in this sort of infighting the next?

How is it that sensitive international transactions, involving foreign companies and official agencies could be revealed to a largely ignorant public? How is it that Bank Hapoalim did not inform the stock exchange and the security authorities and foreign investors of the exact extent of the bank's losses, which affect the shareholders here and bank's affiliates abroad?

It is distressing to be on the receiving end of this orgy of self-revelation and to witness the tarnishing of the image of a bank that only a short while ago was inviting the public to "come grow with us."

And Bank Hapoalim is not just another bank. Its directors are appointed with the approval of Hevrat Ha'ovdim, which is the top body controlling the non-trade Union activities of the Histadrut. Those directors are supposed to reflect a more public-spirited manner of thinking than those of other business enterprises. But to the amazement of the general public, nothing of the kind is apparent in their behaviour over the Levinson affair, and the attacks on him conducted on behalf of the bank by anonymous leak managers.

PERHAPS one should be generous, and admit that some of the excesses are being committed by people who care little about Histadrut values and are apparently mere technocrats. But this generosity cannot be extended to the top people in Hevrat Ha'ovdim. They should, by now, have put an end to the ugly public bickering and the tarnishing of the bank's image. If there is something to be investigated, then where are the certified accountants who examine the bank's records every year? And where are the internal auditors? Why does a Hevrat Ha'ovdim fact-finding mission report semi-publicly

without publishing the full report, thus providing fuel for more rumours?

AS A MEMBER of the Histadrut, one is saddened to see no discernible difference between the behaviour of the people running the Histadrut enterprises and those who operate a mere business. If there is a difference, what is it? And if there is none, why should I, as a member of the Histadrut, own these enterprises?

To mention just one recent event, I am convinced that in the last month's wage struggles, the material interests of Hevrat Ha'ovdim impeded the industrial action that was required to remedy the Treasury's mistaken and too severe wage-erosion policy.

Another important question is how this power struggle around Bank Hapoalim affects the labour movement. No one seems to care what happens here any more. Some of the reckless shooting is bound to hit the movement. The will to survive as a political power is being gravely undermined and there is no one to put a stop to it.

THE SOURCE of the trouble is to be found in the disappearance of motivation at the top. Ideological commitment is not required at the managerial level; but at the level of Histadrut leadership no one has been able to clear away the ideological cobwebs and explain to the public just why it needs the elephantine Hevrat Ha'ovdim, and how it serves the interests of the wage-earner. Hevrat Ha'ovdim may well have passed its prime, or even outlived its usefulness. But no one of intellectual stature and ideological motivation is examining this possibility. Dry rot is afflicting the structure from top to bottom, and hardly anybody seems to care.

One need only look at the moshav movement. Part of it is going bankrupt as a result of Likud policies. This could perhaps be remedied by a change of policies; but what is one to say of people who, while supposedly running a

## Dry Bones



cooperative employ — one might say exploit — cheap Arab labour?

And what of Kupat Holim Chalit, the Histadrut sick fund? Their doctors are not affiliated with the Histadrut trade union and strike against their employers.

And what about the alienation of workers in the Koor enterprises, and particularly of labour in regional enterprises owned jointly by local kibbutzim and Koor?

THE SECRETARY of Hevrat Ha'ovdim, Danny Rosolio, asserted in a recent article that it is still "alive and kicking" and is still, after 60 years, carrying out the two tasks that are as vital as they ever were for the creation of the Zionist entity envisaged two generations ago: constructing an economy and building a new society.

This doesn't sound very realistic or up to date, and one cannot help wondering what Rosolio, a kibbutznik, knows about the world of the '80s, the Likud, etc.

This self-righteous rhetoric is not shared by others, however, and

Ephraim Reiner, the present chairman of Bank Hapoalim, was apparently more reflective. He said recently that Hevrat Ha'ovdim, which had reached a ripe middle age had better shake itself up if it doesn't want to be pensioned off at 65.

Nostalgia and a longing for a glorious past, he said, is no guide to the realities of the future; I could agree more. But, alas, where are the brains and the ideologically motivated, practical leaders, the pragmatic specialists who will effect the needed changes before Reiner's words, "the next secretary-general of Hevrat Ha'ovdim chosen at Metzudat Ze'ev (land headquarters) and not by the Labour movement."

Looking at the real world, the fighting and the lack of leadership at the top, one cannot predict a bright future for Hevrat Ha'ovdim, the Histadrut or the labour movement in general.

(The writer is a commentator on economic and financial matters.)

## READERS' LETTERS

### RESIGN!

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — The government should be giving the example in cutting the budget and saving money. In this connection, I would like to ask a few questions.

Why do we need 30 ministers and deputy ministers in a small and poor country like ours? Couldn't we make do with eight or ten?

Switzerland, with its 6 million inhabitants, manages very well with only eight ministers, and it is certainly a little better off than we are. While we are at it, why not cut all the benefits and extras which the ministers and their deputies enjoy — the Volvos and drivers, free health care (abroad, if so desired), free postal service, including now 2,000 phone calls a month, luxury hotels, meals, etc.

Why do we need a special minister for economic affairs? What economic achievements does he have to his credit? If my memory serves me, he is better known for his energy device and similar "discoveries."

Why do we need a minister who declares publicly that he has nothing to do and has been working on his farm for a whole year, except when he travels abroad, of course with a large entourage and stays at the most expensive hotels?

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### MISSIONARY ACTIVITY

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — Helga Dudman's article "Missionaries and cemeteries" (January 20) leaves the reader with the inaccurate impression that opposition to Christian missionary activity in Israel is limited to the very Orthodox *haredi* community. While groups like Yad Le'Achim have been monitoring the problem for some time, other groups in Israel are also concerned about the challenge posed by certain Christian organizations.

The case of residents in the Jerusalem suburb of Gilo who opposed the establishment of a "Christian hostel" by the Beth Shalom group in their neighbourhood is illustrative. The proposal for the "hostel" was opposed by a wide cross-section of the neighbourhood after Beth Shalom's own literature showed that the hostel was to be used for missionary activity among Jews.

The claimed increase in Christian missionary activity is not unexpected given the recent revival of Christian fundamentalism. At the same time, the 1977 Knesset Law, which allows for fine or imprisonment of a person who gives money or material inducement to change one's faith, has failed to close all the loopholes to the determined missionary. An inquiry into the present scope of missionary activity in Israel by a publicly acceptable body together with more effective legislation would appear to be appropriate. These could clarify the rights and obligations of Israel's non-Jewish communities and remove the recent wave of xenophobia which can only endanger the harmony of Israeli society.

The political dilemma to be faced is that the revival of Christian fundamentalism has not only given new vigour to ancient aspirations of converting Jews, but has also produced support for Israel among many Christian communities. The dilemma cannot be resolved by rejecting the much-needed support. Rather Christians, as well as other non-Jews, should be made welcome in our country but be apprised in no uncertain terms that our welcome is conditional on their not propagating their views among Jews.

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### SUSPECT POLLS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — In his article entitled "Dissect or Deceit?" (January 6), Shmuel Katz levelled grave accusations indeed against the American Jewish Committee. Mr. Katz exposed as rigged and fraudulent two polls produced by the AJC: the one — a poll of American Jewish "leaders," the other — of the Jewish community at large.

Even Shmuel Katz' opponents concede that he is a serious writer of great ability and high integrity; even The Post's opponents concede that it is a prestigious and responsible publication. I would therefore have expected that the AJC would have reacted to Katz' article. One would have thought that the AJC would hasten to deny the charges.

The case of residents in the Jerusalem suburb of Gilo who opposed the establishment of a "Christian hostel" by the Beth Shalom group in their neighbourhood is illustrative. The proposal for the "hostel" was opposed by a wide cross-section of the neighbourhood after Beth Shalom's own literature showed that the hostel was to be used for missionary activity among Jews.

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### INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — I agree with most, though not with all the points in your editorial, "The crime in content" (January 23). I am, however, unhappy that your editorial writer did not at the same time also condemn the statement of Peace Now spokesman Tsali Reshev who, according to a

report in *Haaretz*, has said: "What if it not have been more logical to throw the bomb at the Ministry of Defence who sent his (Avaran) brother to the war?"

If this isn't incitement to violence, what is?

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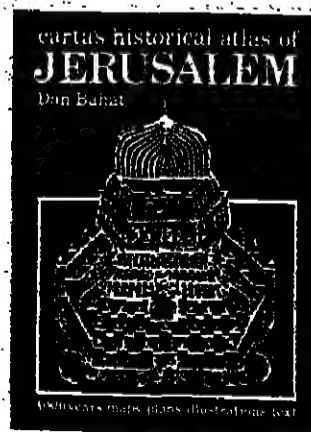
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